

specimens in fragmentary condition are insufficient to permit any attempt at sub-specific identification.'

24/1337, BEHIND G. P. O.,
TRIVANDRUM-695 001,

May 3, 1979.

The Brownwinged Tern is not included in Sálím Ali's BIRDS OF KERALA (1969) and has not been previously reported from Kerala.

K. K. NEELAKANTAN

9. JUNGLE CROW *CORVUS MACRORHYNCHOS* PREYING UPON GREY WAGTAIL *MOTACILLA CASPICA*

Crows are known for their omnivorous habit. I observed a jungle crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* catching a grey wagtail *Motacilla caspica* in flight and feeding on it while it was still alive.

On 16th January 1979 at 9-30 hrs. I saw a jungle crow foraging on the ground near the Tamil Nadu Inspection Bungalow at Thekkady, actively hopping around. At this time there was a grey wagtail sitting on the ground about 40 metres away. A grey wagtail, probably the same individual, was always seen in this locality for more than a month. Now the crow flew silently and landed close to the wagtail. The wagtail did not show any visible response, probably not suspecting a predator in the crow; the crow then made a swift advance towards the wagtail. The wagtail immediately flew up but the crow gave a quick chase and

hit it with its beak. Now the wagtail started losing speed and in its next attempt the crow caught the bird in the air about a metre above the ground and carried it in its beak to a mango tree, about 50 m away from the spot. The crow then started plucking the victim with its beak while holding it with its toes against a branch; the wagtail was still alive and shaking its head but did not call. While the crow was removing the feathers another jungle crow (probably its mate) was sitting close by without interfering. Within 3 minutes the prey was plucked clean and then the crow started feeding on it bit by bit. At this stage the fleshy body of the wagtail dropped down and the crow immediately went down to pick it up and flew to a house top where its 'mate' also joined the feast. The whole operation took about ten minutes.

RESEARCH SCHOLAR,
BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
BOMBAY-400 023,

July 27, 1979.

SHAEQUE AHMED YAHYA

10. OCCURRENCE OF *DICRURUS PARADISEUS LOPHORHINUS* (VIEILLOT) IN GOA (INDIA)—A COMMENT

While in Calcutta in February, 1979, Messrs Saha and Mukherjee kindly showed me the specimen of Ceylon Crested Black Drongo from Goa about which they wrote in their note,

(*JBNHS* 77 (3): 511-2). In appearance and measurements this specimen from the Western Ghats coast of India conforms well to the distinctive form of the Greater Drongo from the ever-